1	2	3	4
Oct.	2.9	3.1	
Nov.	2.6	3.4	
Dec.	2.1	3.3	
Jan.	1.5	4.2	
Feb.	1.4	4.9	
Mar.	1.8	5.5	

*for week ended April 19,2003.

No Madam. The annual inflation rate for the week ended 1 st May, 2003 has not been reported so far. The latest available inflation rate for the week ended April 19,2003 has declined to 6.16% from a two year high of 6.47% for the week ended April 12,2003.

The annual point to point inflation rate based on the WPI remained moderate during much of 2002-2003. However, uncertainty associated with war in the Gulf, the possibility of disrupted supplies of crude oil in the event of war, alongwith strike in Venezuela (a major producer of crude oil) pushed up crude oil prices after December, 2002. A major factor for the rise in inflation rate since January 2003, is the increase in domestic prices of petroleum products consequent upon a hardening of international prices of crude oil. The pressure on inflation rate was also contributed to by a rise in prices of edible oils, arising from a drought related shortfall in production plus hardening of prices in the international markets.

(d) Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) are the two most commonly used statistical measures of inflation. WPI is used for monitoring wholesale prices of 435 commodities distributed among the primary, fuel and manufactured product groups. It is calculated on a weekly basis on the principle of a weighted arithmetic average with a fixed base-weighting diagram (base 1993-94=100). The CPI is a monthly retail price index and is available for (i) Industrial Workers (ii) agricultural labourers and (iii) urban non manual employees.

Probe under Section 237 of Companies Act

4699. SHRI MUNAWAR HASAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

whether it is a fact that Department of Company Affairs has ordered probe under Section 237 of Companies Act in the affairs of M/s HFCL, Macleods Pharmaceuticals, Zee Telefilms and ADAM Exports; and

if so, what have been the findings and what action is being taken against the companies ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) No investigation under Section 237 of the Act has been ordered against the companies referred to.

Taxation of RBI Relief Bond

4700. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring the investment in Reserve Bank of India Relief Bond, in the income tax net; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Financial aid to drought affected States from National Calamity Fund

†4701. SHRIMATI SAVTTA SHARD A: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

whether Government propose to provide financial aid from National Calamity Fund to drought affected States,

if so, the details thereof; and

whether Government have fixed any condition for providing financial aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

Statement is enclosed *(See* below).

The assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) is provided for natural calamities of severe nature requiring expenditure by the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.